

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

In the Claims:

Claims 1-14 (Cancelled)

15. (Previously presented) A method of visually quantifying an amount of an analyte in a sample, wherein the analyte is a member of a specific binding pair (sbp member), comprising:

providing a lateral flow matrix which defines a flow path and which comprises in series, a sample receiving zone, a labeling zone, and one or more serially oriented capture zones, wherein the labeling zone comprises a diffusively bound labeled first sbp member that is complementary to or analogous to the analyte, and each of the one or more capture zones comprises at least a second sbp member immobilized in the capture zone, the second sbp member being complementary to the analyte;

contacting the sample with the sample receiving zone, whereby the sample flows along the flow path;

observing a pattern of label that accumulates at the one or more capture zones; and

correlating a pattern of label accumulated in the one or more capture zones to the amount of analyte in the sample;

wherein the sample receiving zone comprises an amount of a third sbp member immobilized within the sample receiving zone and complementary to the analyte, the amount being sufficient to bind a threshold level of the analyte.

Claims 16-22 (Cancelled)

23. (Previously presented) A method of determining an amount of an analyte in a sample, wherein the analyte is a member of a specific binding pair (sbp member), comprising:

providing a lateral flow matrix which defines a flow path and which comprises in series, a sample receiving zone, a labeling zone, and one or more serially oriented capture zones, wherein the labeling zone comprises a diffusively bound labeled first sbp member that is complementary to the

analyte, and each of the one or more capture zones comprises at least a second sbp member immobilized in the capture zone, the second sbp member being analogous to the analyte;

contacting the sample with the sample receiving zone, whereby the sample flows along the flow path;

observing a pattern of labeled first sbp member that accumulates at the one or more capture zones; and

correlating a pattern of label accumulated in the one or more capture zones to the amount of analyte in the sample;

wherein the labeled first sbp member includes a visually detectable label;

wherein the sample receiving zone comprises an amount of a third sbp member immobilized within the sample receiving zone and complementary to the analyte, the amount being sufficient to bind a threshold level of the analyte.

Claims 24-68 (Cancelled)

69. (Previously presented) A device for determining an amount of an analyte in a sample, wherein the analyte is a member of a specific binding pair (sbp member), comprising a lateral flow matrix which defines a flow path and which comprises in series:

a sample receiving zone;

a labeling zone; and

one or more serially oriented capture zones;

wherein the labeling zone comprises a diffusively bound labeled first sbp member that is complementary to or analogous to the analyte, and each of the one or more capture zones comprises at least a second sbp member immobilized in the capture zone, the second sbp member being complementary to the analyte;

wherein the sample receiving zone comprises an amount of a third sbp member immobilized within the sample receiving zone and complementary to the analyte, the amount being sufficient to bind a threshold level of the analyte.

Claims 70-78 (Cancelled)

79. (Previously presented) A device for determining an amount of an analyte in a sample, wherein the analyte is a member of a specific binding pair (sbp member), the device comprising a lateral flow matrix which defines a flow path and which comprises in series:

a sample receiving zone;

a labeling zone; and

one or more serially oriented capture zones;

wherein the labeling zone comprises a diffusively bound labeled first sbp member that is complementary to or analogous to the analyte, and each of the one or more capture zones comprises at least a second sbp member immobilized in the capture zone, the second sbp member being complementary to the analyte;

wherein the sample receiving zone comprises an amount of a third sbp member immobilized within the sample receiving zone and complementary to the analyte, the amount being sufficient to bind a threshold level of the analyte.

Claims 80-125 (Cancelled)